REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-16, 18-31, 34 and 35.

Filed of even date herewith is a certified copy of applicants' Swedish priority document in the English language. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner mark the file to indicate that the priority papers were received and that acknowledgment of confirmation of receipt be sent with the next written communication from the Office.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the previous objection to claims 2 and 16 are respectfully requested. By the foregoing amendment, applicants have amended the label "previously presented" to say "currently amended" even though claim 2 as it appears in the present application has the same format at in the Amendment filed June 14, 2004. (It is noted that claims 21 and 28 had the label "previously presented" when, in fact, they were also "currently amended." The labels of these claims have been corrected by the present amendment.)

With regard to claim 16, the term "and" has been deleted and a period inserted therefore. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested. "PVAC" is a term well known to those skilled in the art to which the invention pertains and means polyvinyl acetate. The use of such an acronym is well known to those skilled in the art and, as evidence, applicant attaches a copy of an internet search which shows that "polyvinyl acetate (PVAC)" is known in the art. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 17 is, thus, respectfully requested as those

skilled in the art reading the specification as originally filed would know that PVAC meant polyvinyl acetate.

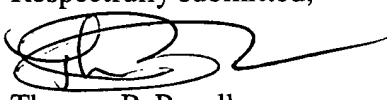
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the previous rejection of claims 32 and 33 is respectfully requested.

Although the Examiner has alleged that there is no original disclosure to "at least one of said segments . . . length to the groove" as set forth in claim 32, lines 7-8, applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to drawing Fig. 6, as well as the written description thereof as found in the specification beginning at page 9, line 5. Therein it is shown "an encapsulated agent is present in the form of at least one tube 7 containing the agent. The tube 7 is sectioned into a series of confined body 7′ of agent . . . since the tube 7 is sectioned, only one or at most two of the confined body 7′ of agent will be ruptured, leaving enough of the combined body 7′ of agent to ensure good bond."

It is, thus, clear that the length of one of the segments as compared to the length of the groove is not more than one-half of the length of the groove as recited in instant claim 32 (as currently amended). Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the original disclosure (the drawings included in the specification) clearly provide its support in the manner required by 35 U.S.C. §112, 1st paragraph, for the claimed invention.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and passage of all claims to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: July 25, 2005

Polyvinyl acetate: applied to controlled-release formulations: polyvinyl acetate (PVAC)--long used in chewing gum and for coating fruits and vegetables--has also found its way into the pharmaceutical industry.

Pharmaceutical Technology; October 01, 2003; Narayan, Bhagya K. Hall, Krisan

Narayan, Bhagya K. Hall, Krisan

Pharmaceutical Technology

October 01, 2003

The use of polyvinyl acetate (PVAC) provides clear advantages to solid oral dosage formulations. Its innate flexibility and binding activity are, in part, the basis for its multifunctionality. As consumer trends drive the pharmaceutical industry's development of new formulations, PVAC's role will become increasingly important.
PVAC is lipophilic in nature, has excellent flexibility, and creates a strong, stable sustained-release effect. Because no ionizable groups exist in PVAC, it allows for pH-independent sustained release. Recent trends indicate the popularity of sustained-release dosage forms, which improve patient compliance by reducing the number of dosings needed per day. Another reason is consumers' growing desire for convenience (e.g., 24-h pain or allergy relief). From an industry standpoint, controlled-release formulations offer a way to extend a product's patent and revive older formulations through line extensions.
Because oral drug

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